

1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: I'm going to ask you to
2 submit the rest of that for the record.

3 MR. DeMARCO: It has been submitted.

4 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

5 Mr. Harvey, welcome.

6 MR. HARVEY: Moderator, thank you. I'm a
7 retired clergyman, and I find it very difficult to go
8 from 25 minutes to three minutes, and so I ask your
9 indulgence, please. I'm going to speak faster than I
10 usually do and not yell.

11 I've lived in Atlantic County now for four
12 years and am a card carrying member of Harrah's and
13 some of the other casinos.

14 I find it interesting to live here, and I
15 have been studying casino gambling and its impact upon
16 our community in many ways.

17 My Atlantic City history began here when
18 my in-laws came on their honeymoon in 1926. They went
19 home singing about Atlantic City's boardwalk where
20 life was peaches and cream.

21 Well, times change. We've heard of that
22 already. Peaches and cream were replaced by

1 joblessness and poor housing and crime and drugs and
2 guns and institutional races and all of those things
3 that have plagued all kinds of societies.

4 Then in the '70s casinos came, and they
5 brought promises, quick fixes. Unfortunately, neither
6 the churches or government or casinos, as well as the
7 other agencies of our community, were able to solve
8 the problems, but the beat went on.

9 Sociologists tell us it takes one
10 generation for a good thing to become a bad thing.
11 Well, we have lived through that generation. Now
12 what?

13 We know that now instead of riches casinos
14 are places where sometimes people win, but most times
15 people lose their money. Then the holding companies
16 or the stockholders or whoever take the money out of
17 town as fast as they can. See Donald run. Run,
18 Donald, run.

19 (laughter.)

20 MR. HARVEY: The truth of the matter is
21 Atlantic City, which has been a cash town for others,
22 has found it very difficult to fend for themselves. So

1 one begins to wonder who's in charge here. Is it the
2 people who live and work hard in Atlantic City? Is it
3 labor? Is it management? Is it the mayor? Is it
4 city council? Is it the superintendent of schools?
5 Is it the governor? Is it Senator Gormley? Is it the
6 legislature? Who's in charge? Steve Wynn in Circus
7 Circus?

8 Live here is not the "big easy" for many
9 people. Work here does not bring nobility to the
10 human spirit for many of the employed, nor the
11 unemployed as well.

12 Unfortunately workers are being threatened
13 with downsizing and all those other issues of our
14 society.

15 I'm told casinos will survive as long as
16 we write numbers and as long as the prosperity of our
17 society produces large amounts of discretionary
18 income, but you and I know that so will the addictions
19 and so will the diseases and so will the thousands who
20 drain their bank accounts, et cetera, et cetera.

21 Let us, therefore, as people together,
22 labor and management, churches and casinos, community

1 and all people, work together for a community where
2 once again maybe we can see some peaches and cream.

3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Harvey.

4 MR. HARVEY: -- once again we see a new
5 community.

6 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much.

7 Nilda K.

8 NILDA K.: My name is Nilda K., and I'm a
9 compulsive gambler.

10 I did have a speech, but on my way here I
11 have not been down to Atlantic City in five years. On
12 my way here, all I kept thinking about, I remembered
13 when I used to come here was the highs of how great I
14 was going to make it big. On my way here today all I
15 could think of was the misery that it caused me.

16 It caused me my family, my life, my
17 occupation. I lose a degree, looking forward to maybe
18 being in jail.

19 Who do I have to thank for the life that
20 I have now is GA. Because of them I am working again,
21 and I hear all of these people talk about how great
22 their life is because of Atlantic City. Well, you